

PROJECT 10073 RECORD

1. DATE - TIME GROUP 21 AUG 21 1949	2. LOCATION Nogales, Arizona
3. SOURCE CIVILIAN	10. CONCLUSION 1. R Other (REFLECTION OF AIRPORT BEACON ON CLOUDS) 2. Astro (METEORS)
4. NUMBER OF OBJECTS Several (One at a Time)	
5. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION 10 Seconds Each	11. BRIEF SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS  21 August: Observers saw a light circling in the sky. The size of this light at its apex was about 12 to 15 ft. The light was further observed at the apex of a cone of light originating at the Nogales Airport. The direction of flight of this light was from South to North. Beacon lights at the Nogales Airport had been turned on that evening between the hours of 2115 and 2135. This beacon moves in a clockwise manner, which would appear from the ground to be moving from South to North. 14 & 20 August: Sightings of these dates were evaluated as Meteors. SEE CASE FILE
6. TYPE OF OBSERVATION Ground-Visual	
7. COURSE South to North	
8. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
9. PHYSICAL EVIDENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

FORM  
 FTD SEP 63 0-307 (TDE) Previous editions of this form may be used.

SEARCHED	INDEXED	SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 21 1949		FBI - NOGALES	
NOGALES, ARIZONA		OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY	

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The following additional persons were interviewed in relation to the alleged aerial phenomenon. These persons were in the company of Mr. [REDACTED] at the time he made his observation.

Mrs. [REDACTED], wife of observer was interviewed at her home and concurred in the observations of her husband and further stated that the phenomenon impressed her as being similar to fireworks.

Mrs. [REDACTED] was interviewed at her home [REDACTED], Nogales, Arizona and agreed with the observations of Mr. [REDACTED] with the exception of the direction of flight, which she stated in most cases was U shaped and not circular.

Miss [REDACTED] was interviewed at her home, [REDACTED] St, Nogales, Arizona and agreed with the observations of Mr. [REDACTED] with the following exceptions. She stated that the color of the objects were blue-white and that the direction of flight was straight across the sky with one object stopped and hovering overhead for approximately ten minutes.

Mrs. [REDACTED] was interviewed at her home, [REDACTED] Nogales, Arizona. Mrs. [REDACTED] also agreed with the observations of Mr. [REDACTED] with the following exception. She stated that the objects were not all the same shape and that the direction of flight was U shaped in all instances.

Mr. [REDACTED], Santa Cruz County, residing at [REDACTED] St, Nogales, Arizona was interviewed in relation to this alleged aerial phenomenon. Sheriff [REDACTED] volunteered the following information. That he had been standing in the front yard of his home which is slightly north, northeast of the [REDACTED] residence, at 2100 hours 21 August 1949 when he had observed a flashing white light describing a circular path in the sky. [REDACTED] stated that the size of this light at its apex was approximately 12 to 15 feet in diameter, color of which was a dull white. The angle of elevation was between 25 and 30 degrees and the direction from which he observed this light emanating was north, northeast. Mr. [REDACTED] stated that he further observed that this light at apex of a cone of light which he presumed emanated from the Nogales Airport. He further stated that this light reflected upon a telephone pole located in the vicinity of his home at approximately a height of 27 feet when passing his home. That the direction of flight of this light was from South to North (clockwise). [REDACTED] observed this light for approximately one-half hour and stated that they were from 40 to 45 seconds between intervals of each appearance. He stated that the light was moving approximately twice as fast as an airplane in flight. 60/52

Mr. [REDACTED] of the International Airport, Nogales was interviewed in relation to lighting facilities at the airport. He stated that beacon lights had been turned on the evening of 21 August 1949 between the hours of 2115 and 2135. He further stated that this beacon moves in a clockwise manner, which would appear from town to be moving from South to North.

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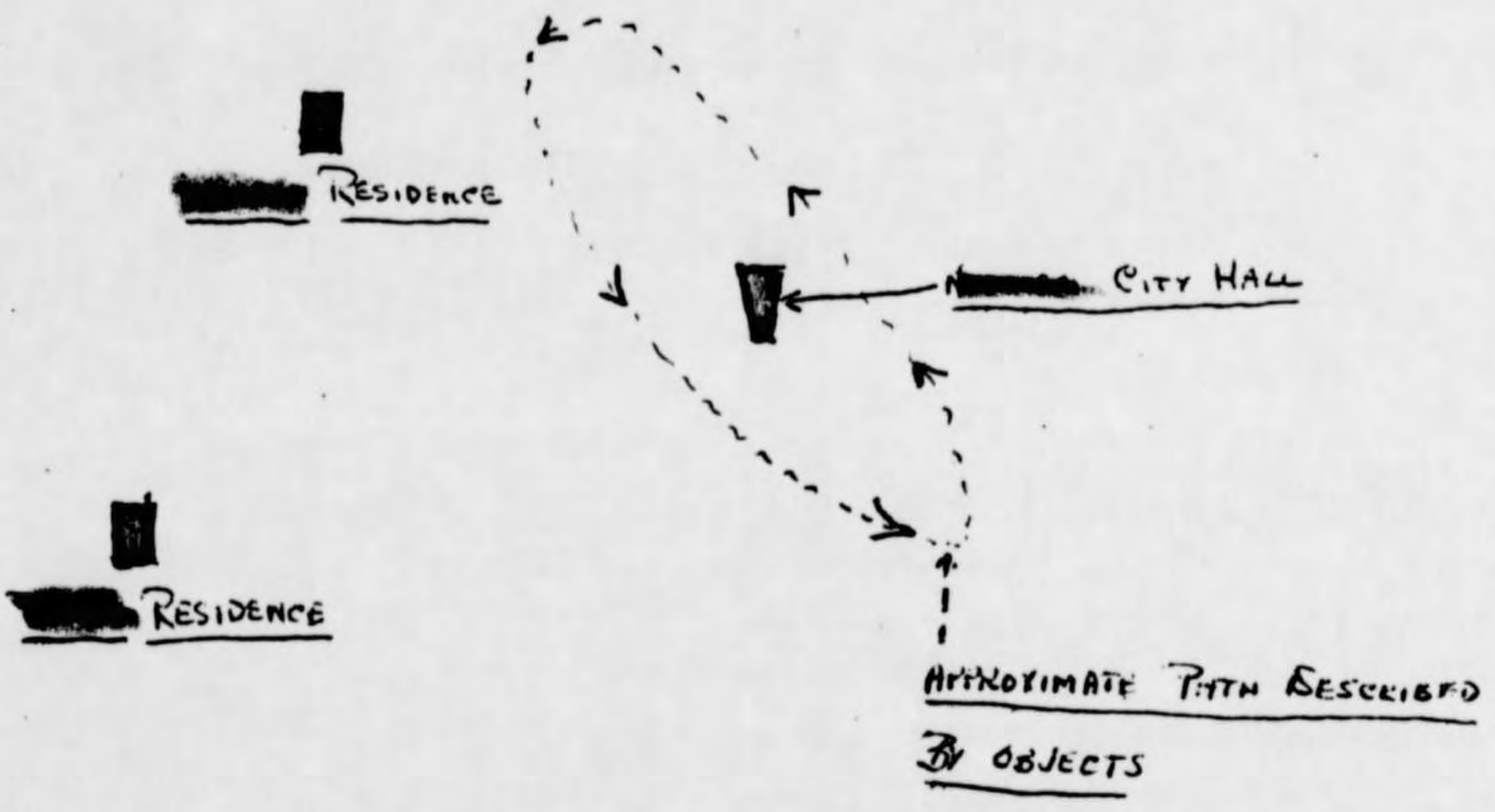
Newspaper clippings in relation to this incident in the Nogales Herald, Monday, August 22, 1949 and the Arizona Daily Star, Tuesday, August 23, 1949 are attached hereto as Inclosure #4.

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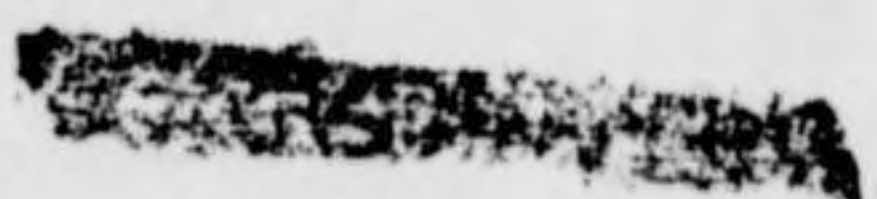
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○  
MOONLIPS  
INT. AIRPORT



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ENCLOSURE # 1



0925

ATTORNEY AT LAW  
NOGALES, ARIZONA

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9:15 P.M.

9:50 P.M.

LOW FLIGHT

Dull orange  
yellow  
color

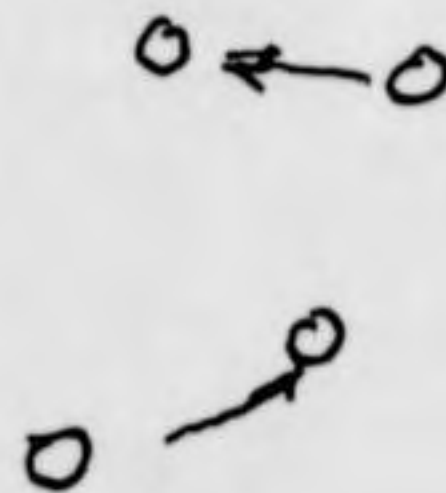


High Flight

Diffused white  
light, little  
stars seen  
through haze



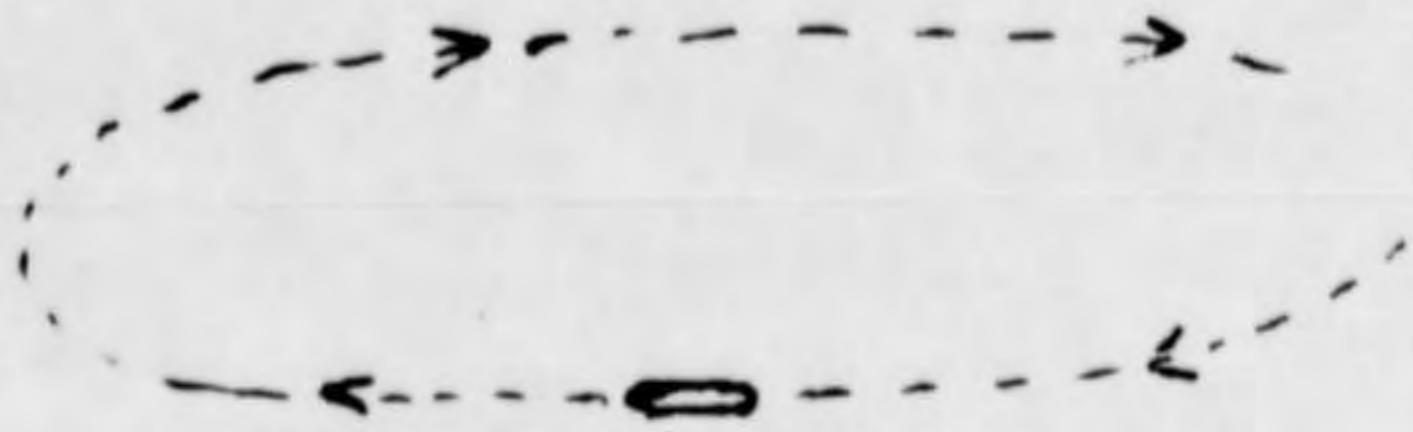
STRAIGHT OVERHEAD



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1. REGULAR FLIGHT

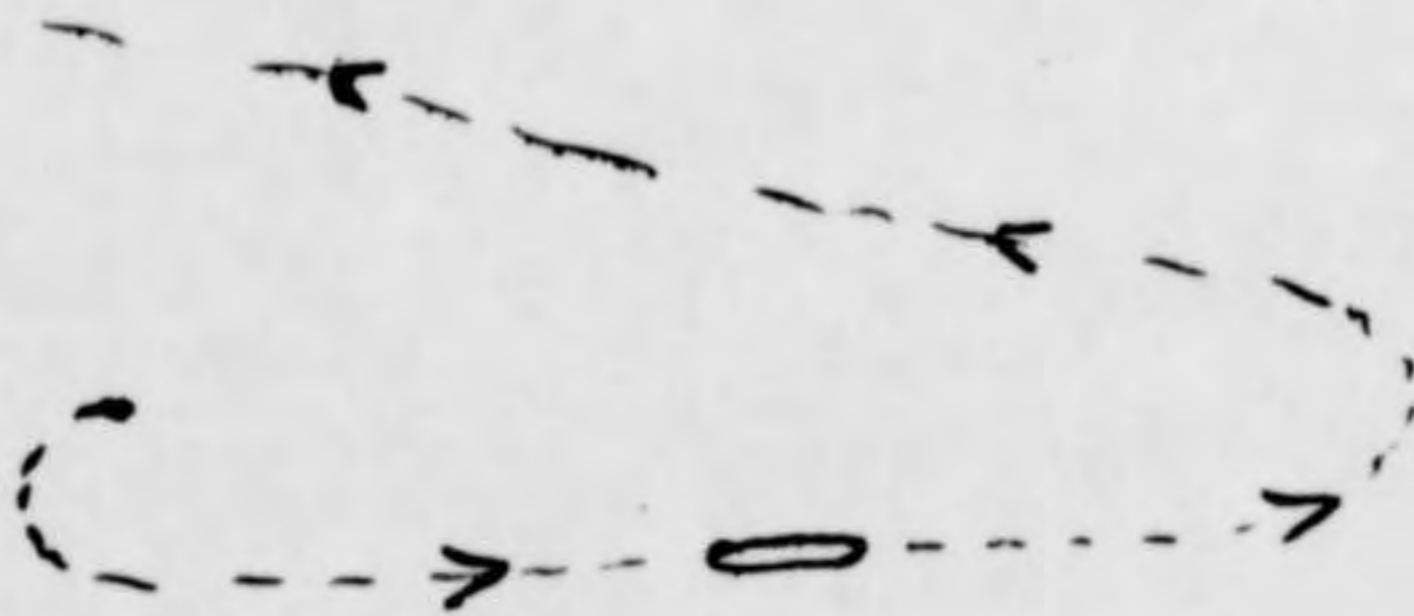


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2. IRREGULAR FLIGHT



3. DISAPPEARING



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# "Flying Saucers" Seen Over City By Many Nogalians Sunday Night

"Flying Saucers" were seen over Nogales last night by at least nine persons, including Attorney Ruffo Espinosa, it was reported today.

Others who saw the flying objects included Mrs. Margarita de Ramirez; her daughter, Margarita; Mrs. Espinosa; Mrs. Estela de Talia and her three children; and Miss Nona Aviles.

Other Nogalians report seeing the flying saucers" last night.

Espinosa reported today that about 9:15 o'clock, Mrs. Ramirez saw what was at first believed to be a beacon from the local airport. Espinosa then noticed the light over the city hall and also took it to be the airport beacon, but upon noting that the "peculiar orange light" had an irregular motion saw "it was something extraordinary."

The former county officer described the object as having a nucleus of orange stars, looking somewhat like luminous sand, with a corona of white light.

Some of those who viewed the flying objects said they looked like clusters of stars.

It is reported that the "flights" were made at very irregular intervals and from an ellipsis-shaped light would turn into a figure eight light.

The observers report seeing a great many of them from 9:15 to 10 o'clock with the clusters flying much higher about 9:30 and looking different in appearance, like stars seen through "a lot of atmosphere."

Espinosa reports he "never saw anything so fast" in his life.

At one time seven of the flying objects were flying at the same time in a southeast by east direction, then one way down south of northeast in a straight line. The dots could not be seen when the objects were flying high and they left no tail at any time.

At his home on Potrero Street, Espinosa saw two or three white objects which would change form as in a slow motion. He disproved an optical illusion theory by holding the back of a chair as a stargazing aid.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Rivas also observed these changing formations.

The Arizona Daily Star  
Tuesday, August 23, 1949 Tucson, Arizona

## SHERIFF NAMES DROPPERS

## Charge Dropped

Charges of contributing to the delinquency of a minor were dismissed against four of five defendants in a case brought before Court Judge Lee Garrett, but the fifth charge was not dropped. The four against whom charges were dropped were Ferringer and Cpls. George Uchida

## Flying Saucers Flit Thru Nogales Skies As Audience Stares

NOGALES, Aug. 22.—(P)—Nogales now has its own version of the flying saucer.

At least nine residents, including former County Attorney Ruffo Espinosa, reported seeing luminous flying objects in this area last night.

Espinosa said that about 9:15 p. m. Mrs. Margarita de Ramirez noted what she thought was the beacon from the international airport. He said that upon closer observation, it was not the beacon at all but appeared to be a series of orange-colored discs. He said they appeared to be somewhat like luminous sands with a corona of white light.

Others said it looked like star clusters. They came in very irregular intervals from 9:15 to 9:50.

Espinosa said he never saw anything travel so fast.

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ENCLOSURE #4

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Auth. CS, USIA

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SEP 2 1949

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL USAF  
17TH DISTRICT OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS  
KIRTLAND AIR FORCE-BASE, NEW MEXICO

DR/MEN/web

File No: 24-8

1 September 1949

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN (Aerial Phenomena)

TO: Commanding General  
Air Materiel Command  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
Dayton, Ohio  
ATTN: MCIAXO-3

1. Reference is made to previous reports of investigation, this district regarding unidentified aerial objects, the last of which was dated 19 August 1949.

2. Attached are two copies of Report of Investigation, this district, dated 30 August 1949, subject as above.

3. This district will continue to forward reports of sightings of this nature to your headquarters.

1 Incl  
Rpt of Inv (dup)

DOYLE REES  
Lt Col, USAF  
District Commander

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DECLASSIFIED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

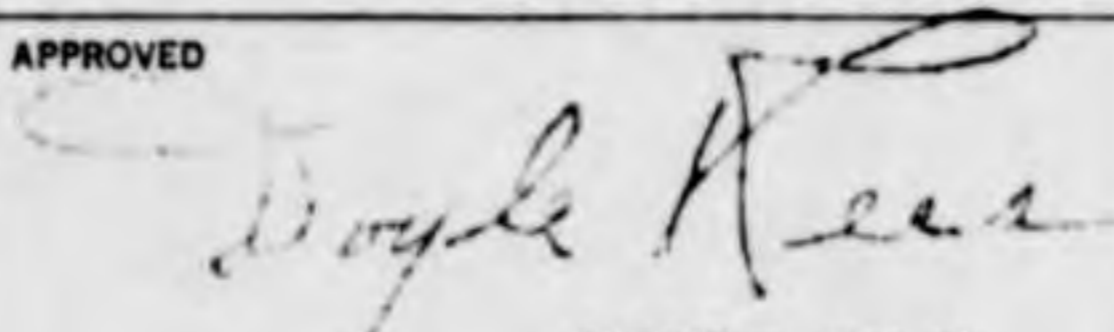
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*Handwritten signature/initials*



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE THE INSPECTOR GENERAL OFFICE OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS <b>REPORT OF INVESTIGATION</b>		FILE NO. 24-8	DATE 30 August 1949
TITLE UNKNOWN SUBJECT (Aerial Phenomena)		REPORT MADE BY MELVIN E. NEEF	REPORT MADE AT DO # 17, Kirtland AFB
CHARACTER SPECIAL INQUIRY		PERIOD 23, 25 August 1949	OFFICE OF ORIGIN DO # 17, Kirtland AFB
REFERENCE Report of MELVIN E. NEEF, DO # 17, dated 19 Aug 1949		STATUS PENDING	
SYNOPSIS <p>Additional reports of anomalous flying objects (flying discs and fireballs) are reported as occurring on 14, 20 and 21 August 1949. Details are reported on forms specified.</p>			
DISTRIBUTION CG, AWC, ATTN: MCIAXO-3 (Action Copies) 2 Director of Intelligence, USAF (Info) 1 Hq OSI 1 File 2		ACTION COPY FORWARDED TO Commanding General Air Materiel Command Wright-Patterson AF Base Dayton, Ohio ATTN: MCIAXO-3	FILE STAMP
		APPROVED  DOYLE REES Lt Col, USAF District Commander.	

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DOWNGRADED AT 8 YEARS IN REVEALS;  
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
 DOD DIR 5200.10

1-2-11-11-11

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GUIDE TO INVESTIGATION  
UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS

Incident No. 2

1. Date of Observation -- 14 August 1949. Date of Interview -- 16 Aug 49.
2. Exact Time of Observation -- 2135 MST.
3. Place of Observation -- 33° 10' North, 105° 18' West.
4. Position of observer -- Riding in car, moving slow.
5. What attracted attention to object -- Light.
6. Number of objects -- One.
7. Apparent size -- Larger than Venus, but not as bright.
8. Color of object -- Redish Orange.
9. Shape -- Round.
10. Altitude -- Appeared at 25°; disappeared at 12°.
11. Direction from observer -- 87° 53' NE, appeared; 84° 15' disappeared.
12. Distance from observer -- In vicinity of White Tail, New Mexico.
13. Direction of flight of object -- 10 to 15 degrees off vertical.
14. Time in sight -- 2 seconds.
15. Speed -- Not estimated.
16. Sound and odor -- None.
17. Trail -- dissipating and disappeared before the object.
18. Luminosity -- Dull glow, less bright than Venus.
19. Projections -- None.
20. Maneuvers -- Straight Path.
21. Manner of disappearance -- Diminished in size slightly before it disappeared.
22. Effect on clouds -- No clouds.
23. Additional information concerning object -- None.
24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting -- Very dark and clear.

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Page 2  
Guide to Investigation

Incident No. 2

Name and address of observer:

[REDACTED],  
[REDACTED], New Mexico

Occupation and Hobbies:

Geodetic Surveyor  
Astronomy

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observer:

[REDACTED] is an extremely intelligent person and is in charge of [REDACTED] Alamogordo, New Mexico.

Did observer wear glasses, especially polaroid glasses at time of sighting, or was object viewed through canopy, window, or other transparent material?

No.

[REDACTED]

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GUIDE TO INVESTIGATION  
UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS

Incident No. 6

1. Date of Observation 20 August 1949 Date of Interview 25 August 1949
2. Exact time of observation (local) 2130 hours (exact).
3. Place of Observation: Douglas, Arizona  
(Map Coordinates)  $31^{\circ} 30''$  N latitude,  $109^{\circ} 30''$  W longitude.
4. Position of observer: Sighted from front porch,  Ave,  
Douglas, Arizona
5. What attracted attention to object: Looking into space
6. Number of objects and sketch of formation or grouping: One
7. Apparent size: Probably about the size of a conventional single engine airplane.
8. Color of Object: Not observed due to darkness.
9. Shape: Round to oblong - like inverted saucer, appeared to have depth.
10. Altitude: 8,000 to 10,000 feet if size of object was that of conventional airplane.
11. Direction from observer:  $285^{\circ}$  when first sighted - disappeared at azimuth of approximately  $200^{\circ}$ .
12. Distance from observer: Approximately 3 miles horizontally.
13. Direction of flight of object: North to due South.
14. Time in Sight: 6 to 10 seconds.
15. Speed: 6 to 10 seconds.
16. Sound and odor: None was heard or seen.
17. Trail: No trail whatsoever.
18. Luminosity: Appeared to have approximate brilliance of a kerosene lamp.
19. Projections: No projections could be observed.
20. Maneuvers: No maneuvers. Object did not wobble, turn, bank or dive. Absolute flat trajectory.

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21. Manner of disappearance: Apparently just disappeared in distance or maybe into clouds in Mexico. **UNCLASSIFIED**
22. Effect on clouds: None.
23. Additional information concerning object: Appeared to have dim lights around perimeter and was either rotating counter-clockwise or the lights were flashing off and on in such a manner to give the illusion of rotation.
24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting: Absolutely clear, stars out, completely dark.

Name and address of observers:

Mr. [REDACTED] Douglas, Arizona  
Mr. [REDACTED], Douglas, Arizona

Occupation and hobbies:

[REDACTED] - [REDACTED] Retired, 65 years old, hobbies mainly hunting.  
[REDACTED] Douglas, Arizona, has no hobbies.

Comments of Interrogator relative to intelligence and character of observers:

Neighbors, Police Department and employer gave two observers high recommendations as to intelligence, character and sobriety. Interrogator is of opinion that information obtained is excellent as to sincerity and accuracy.

Did observer wear glasses, especially polaroid glasses at time of sighting, or was object viewed through canopy, window, or other transparent material?

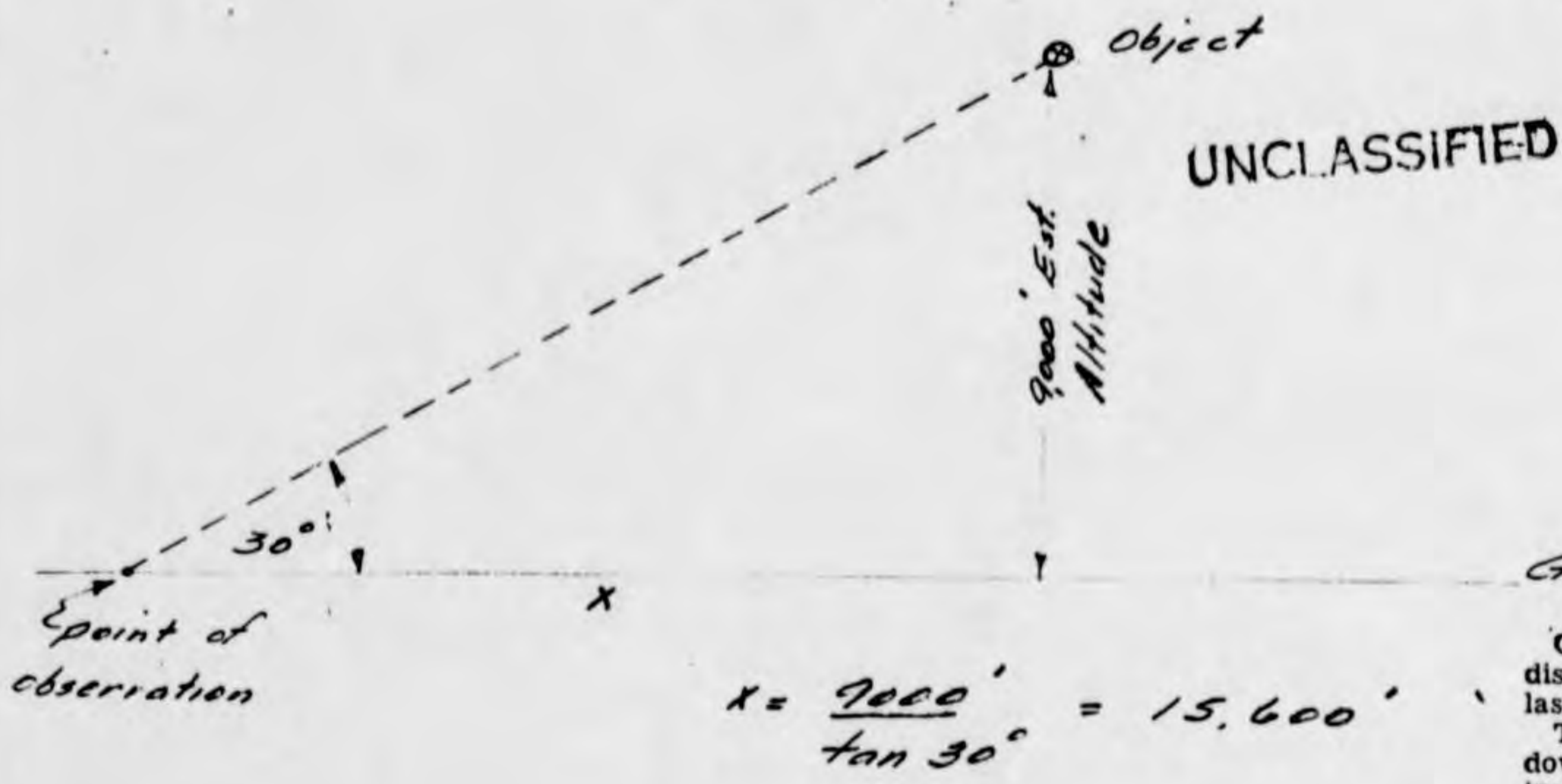
Neither observer wore glasses at time of sighting and both observers were out of doors when observations were made.

NOTE: Calculations made by writer from angles of elevation and horizontal angles from observer (all estimated by observers) would place the speed of the object at between 3,500 to 4,500 miles per hour. See attached Inclosure.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]



$$x = \frac{9000'}{\tan 30^\circ} = 15,600'$$

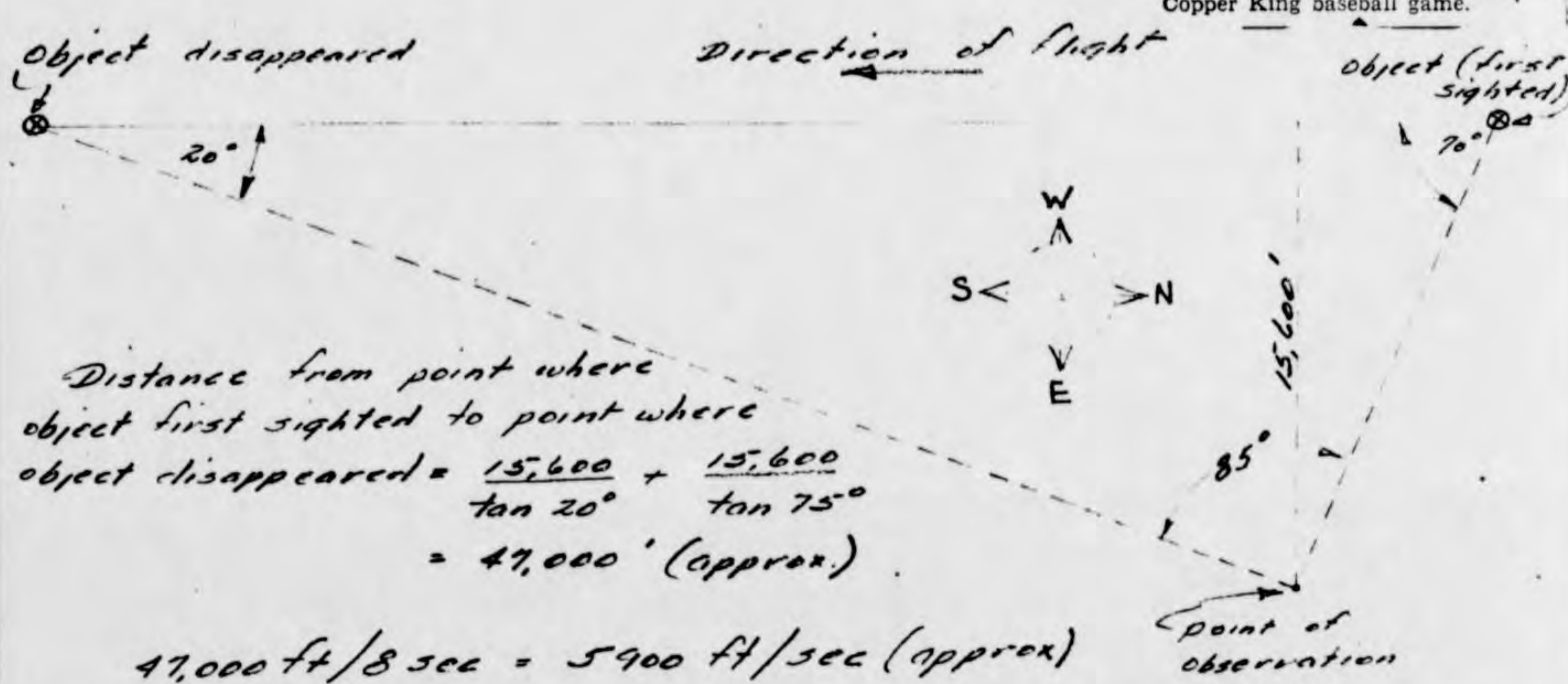
GROUND

**Discs Again**

Objects appearing to be flying discs were reported by three Douglasites Saturday night. The objects looked like upside-down saucers and were dimly illuminated. They moved rather swiftly across the sky at a high altitude and were headed southward.

The discs were described as rather indistinct, but round and "saucer-shaped".

They were seen by Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hamilton and Leroy Fischer and the three sat on the front porch of the Hamilton residence, 841 F Avenue, listening to a broadcast of the Copper King baseball game.



Distance from point where object first sighted to point where object disappeared =  $\frac{15,600}{\tan 20^\circ} + \frac{15,600}{\tan 75^\circ}$

= 47,000' (approx.)

$47,000 \text{ ft} / 8 \text{ sec} = 5900 \text{ ft/sec (approx)}$

$= 4,000 \text{ miles/hr (approx)}$

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GUIDE TO INVESTIGATION  
UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS

Incident No. 5

1. Date of Observation 21 Aug 49 Date of Interview 23 Aug 49.
2. Exact time of observation (local) 2115 - 2150 hours.
3. Place of Observation: Approximately over center of Nogales, Arizona.  
(Map Coordinates) See Attached sketch, Inclosure #1.
4. Position of observer: Sitting on front porch of home of Mrs. ~~██████████~~  
~~██████████~~ St, Nogales, Arizona, also from center of street.
5. What attracted attention to object: One person of party of eight noticed odd lights.
6. Number of objects and sketch of formation or grouping: Seven or more - No definite formation - singly and on one occasion, two.
7. Apparent size: Approximate size of volley ball.
8. Color of object: Dull orange with concentration towards center fading away into white light aurora.
9. Shape: Wafer - like, see attached sketch by observer, Inclosure #2.
10. Altitude:  $45^{\circ}$  when observed at low level -  $90^{\circ}$  at high level.
11. Direction from observer: North North East.
12. Distance from observer: Within five miles.
13. Direction of flight of objects: Elliptical and horizontal to earths surface, erratic upward trajectory and then return to original elliptical flight.
14. Time in sight: At least ten seconds.
15. Speed: Ten times speed of jet plane.
16. Sound and odor: None apparent.
17. Trail: No trail apparent.
18. Luminosity: Brilliant.
19. Projections: None
20. Maneuvers: See attached sketch, Inclosure #3.

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21. Manner of disappearance: Shooting off into space.
22. Effect on clouds: None
23. Additional information concerning object: Object appeared elongated when in flight seemingly as if constructed of viscous liquid.
24. Weather conditions and light at time of sighting: Hazy, dark night.
25. Name and address of observer: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Nogales, Arizona.
26. Occupation and hobbies: Attorney at Law. Portrait Painting.
27. Comments of Interrogator: Interviews conducted at Nogales Police Department, with the city Judge, Nogales, Arizona, the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office and the local FBI disclosed no derogatory information regarding observer. Observer of above average intelligence.
28. Did observer wear glasses, especially polaroid glasses at time of sighting, or was object viewed through canopy, window, or other transparent material? Observer normally wears glasses but did not have them on. Stated he did not need them for far away objects. There was no obstruction to view.

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